

WASHINGTON, D.C. - Rep. Sam Farr (D-Carmel) today signed a letter urging President Bush to close the detention facilities at Guantanamo Bay Naval Base. He joined scores of House colleagues pushing to shutter the controversial prison and begin trials for the detainees.

"It's an outrage that this prison was opened in 2002, and it's an outrage that it hasn't been closed," said Rep. Farr. "This prison undermines our status as a leader on human rights and places Americans around the world in jeopardy."

The House in May included a provision in a defense bill that would require the Secretary of Defense to develop a plan to transfer detainees from Guantanamo Bay to secure facilities in the United States. The Senate version of that bill is bogged down.

"We're keeping these people in prison indefinitely without charging them with a crime," Rep. Farr said. "This challenges the moral foundation of our country and is an embarrassment to us all."

An excerpt from the letter: "The global war on terror cannot be won through military might alone. It is a war of ideas and philosophies. A liability of our own creation, the existence of the detention facilities at Guantanamo Bay is defeating our effort to ensure that the principles of freedom, justice and human rights are spread throughout the world."

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